

HONORING THE TRINITY VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE LADY
CARDINALS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Trinity Valley Community College Lady Cardinals as the 2014 National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Division I Women's Basketball Champions. This marks the 3rd consecutive NJCAA Championship for the Lady Cardinals, a new NJCAA Division 1 record.

In a 65 to 46 victory, the Lady Cardinals closed out their season with a 35–1 record. The success enjoyed by the team is truly remarkable and a testament to the hard work and dedication of its players as well as Head Coach Elena Lovato, Assistant Coaches Gerald Ewing and Spencer Robertson, and Team Manager Scott Pellegrin. Trinity Valley Community College President Dr. Glendon Forgey, faculty, staff, and students are also to be commended for TVCC's success both on the court and in the classroom.

In addition to the record breaking team performance of the Lady Cardinals this season, I also want to recognize Adut Bulgak for being named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, and Coach Lovato being named "Coach of the Tournament."

Trinity Valley Community College Lady Cardinals include: Adut Bulgak, Rodricka Patton, Shlonte' Allen, Jazmine Spears, Julianne Anchling, Kuaneshia Baker, Deborah Meeks, Sylvia Smith-Gatson, Leashja Grant, Kyhonta Doughty, Autumn Williams, and Dominique Brooks.

On behalf of the citizens of Athens and the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize the Lady Cardinals in the United States House of Representatives.

PAT SOLANO, 2013 ATTORNEY JOSEPH SAVORITO SR. GREATER PITTSSTON LIFETIME OF SERVICE AWARD WINNER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pat Solano, the recipient of the 2013 Attorney Joseph Saporito Sr. Greater Pittston Lifetime of Service Award.

Mr. Solano was born on June 22, 1925 in Pittston Township, Pennsylvania. In 1942, he graduated from Pittston Township High School and immediately joined the U.S. Army Air Corp. During World War II, Mr. Solano flew 23 combat missions over Germany with the Eighth U.S. Army Corp Heavy Bombardment Group. For his service, he received the Group Presidential Citation, the Air Force Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European Combat Theatre Medal with two Bronze Stars. Once home from the war, Mr. Solano met and married his wife Marie, and they had six daughters.

After serving in the Army, Mr. Solano dedicated his life to public service, beginning as

the assistant police chief for Pittston Township. In 1950, he became the Third District Republican Chairman, and later was named the County Republican Chairman in 1968. He also served two terms as a member of the Pittston Township School Board. Since 1969, Mr. Solano has worked for and advised ten Pennsylvania governors from both sides of the aisle. In 2002, he retired after 40 years of federal service.

Mr. Solano's dedication to Pennsylvania does not end with his work. He was a member of the Pittston Township Bicentennial Committee, Assistant Scout Master for Troop 212 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus, the Columbus League of Luzerne County, Pittston Memorial Library fundraising co-chairman, and Luzerne County Community College trustee.

For his commitment to improving Pennsylvania, Mr. Solano has received many accolades and awards. He was honored by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, an agency he helped start 20 years ago. He also received the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Thomas P. Shelbourne Environmental Leadership Award, a Doctor of Humane Letters from Misericordia University, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Commander's Award.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Solano has shown outstanding dedication to our nation, the state of Pennsylvania, and his local community. Therefore, I commend him for his service and receipt of the 2013 Attorney Joseph Saporito Sr. Greater Pittston Lifetime of Service Award, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

SGR REPEAL AND MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, using Medicare as a political pawn in their 51st attempt to undermine the Affordable Care Act is a new low, even for House Republicans.

Americans are waiting for Congress to stop wasting time and start passing constructive solutions to the real challenges this country faces. The broken Medicare physician payment system is one such challenge. And there is a bipartisan, bicameral plan to reform Medicare physician payments to promote quality and efficiency.

Unfortunately, today's vote isn't about that plan at all. We know this because the bill includes a poison pill that guarantees it will never become law. This is nothing more than one more tired exercise in Republicans indulging their obsessive hatred of the Affordable Care Act. Rather than working with Democrats to reach agreement on how to advance Medicare payment reform in a fiscally responsible way, Republicans instead attached a five-year delay of the Affordable Care Act's requirement that everyone take responsibility for having health insurance. The White House has indicated the President would veto this bill if it were to reach his desk.

Private health insurers object to today's anti-Obamacare exercise. America's Health Insurance Plans and Blue Cross BlueShield Association wrote:

"we have deep concerns about packaging the Medicare physician payment bill with legislation that would sever the link between the ACA's individual mandate and its market reforms. The experience of states that attempted this in the 1990s demonstrates that removing this important linkage will result in more uninsured Americans, higher costs, and reduced choices for individuals and families. To avoid these outcomes, we are asking Congress to reject efforts to repeal or delay the individual mandate in the debate on Medicare physician payment reform."

The American Academy of Family Physicians had this to say:

"It is disturbing that work designed to expand access to quality health care would be advanced alongside a policy that deliberately removes access to quality health care coverage. Providing access to health care coverage for millions of Medicare beneficiaries while eliminating access to health care coverage for millions more is simply poor public policy and we urge that such approach be abandoned."

This vote today is further evidence—as if any more were needed—that Republicans in Congress simply are not serious about addressing our real challenges. We need to fix Medicare physician payments. We need to improve opportunity in this country. We need to raise the minimum wage. We need to renew extended unemployment benefits. Currently over two million Americans out of work through no fault of their own have been left in the lurch by Republicans' refusal to renew these benefits. We were elected to this body to solve problems, not to posture endlessly.

If Congressional Republicans were serious about fixing Medicare physician payments, they would not pull stunts like this. If they cared more about solving problems than they do about fulfilling their anti-Obamacare fetish, they would not pull stunts like this. Americans deserve better. Medicare beneficiaries deserve better, as do the doctors who treat them. To the majority, I say, stop wasting everyone's time.

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF NOWRUZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with this opportunity to recognize Nowruz, a traditional Persian holiday that began on March 20 and celebrates the arrival of spring.

Nowruz has been observed by millions of individuals of Persian descent for more than 3,000 years as a time of renewal health, happiness, and prosperity. The holiday's ecumenical values are celebrated by adherents of many religions including Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahai' faith. It is considered a special time to share with family and friends and to honor cultural traditions.

In the United States, Nowruz serves to remind us of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of American society.